

vernacular names follow those of *Birds of Africa*, now beginning to show its age with the earlier volumes, although much better with the later ones. Status codes follow the usual BOU format with clear abbreviations such as RB for resident breeder. A critical eye has been cast over some of the early records of Trowell (1963), and those rejected are listed in square brackets in the text.

An introductory short paragraph summarises the distribution and status of each species, the latter given in general terms, with those of conservation concern duly identified although, oddly, the Angolan endemics are not actually mentioned as such in the relevant species text. Details of collected specimens are given where available from the literature and these form a large part of many of the species accounts; a list of where the specimens are located is given in abbreviated format.

A series of appendices give mean annual rainfall and dry season months at many localities in Angola, a tabular habitat analysis of Angolan avian families, ringing recoveries in Angola [mostly Cape Gannet (*Sula capensis*) and terns (*Sterna* spp.)], mass measurements in grams of Angolan birds, a comprehensive gazetteer, and a thorough list of references pertaining to Angolan birds. An index is given for scientific names and also for English and Portuguese names.

The book is a welcome addition to the literature on African birds dealing with one of the most poorly covered countries. It fits admirably into the BOU checklist series and is a valuable summary of information up to the mid 1990s. Hopefully, the recent political settlements in Angola will usher in an era of reconstruction and development, and some of the more obvious gaps in our knowledge, as shown by this book, can begin to be filled, as intrepid scientists and birders again visit that country. This book is recommended for anyone visiting or interested in this little known area.—PHIL GREGORY, Cassowary House, P. O. Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881, Australia; e-mail: sicklebill@optusnet.com.au.

THE BIRD ATLAS OF UGANDA. By Margaret Carswell, Derek Pomeroy, Jake Reynolds, and Herbert Tushabe. British Or-

nithologists Club/British Ornithologists Union, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. 2005: 553 pp., 11 tables, 10 text figures, 822 maps. ISBN: 0-9522866-4-8. GBP 55.00 (hardback).—*The Bird Atlas of Uganda* covers all species known to have occurred in the country up to the end of 1999, with pre-1990 records allocated where practicable to quarter square degrees, and post 1990 records presented on a point basis, with most assigned to the nearest kilometer. The first published data included is from 1891 and an exhaustive search of the literature was undertaken to make the atlas as comprehensive as possible. Less than 80 people contributed to the project, a small number in the context of such an undertaking and a major achievement when one considers the background and location of the work. Over 41,000 point records are detailed in the maps, which are given for all species with five or more records. Uganda becomes the 16th African country to have an atlas produced, (although six countries are included within the massive Southern African Bird Atlas).

The English names wisely follow the exemplary Stevenson and Fanshawe 2002 Field Guide, which will be the default reference work for a long time, and neatly avoids the pitfall of arbitrary names imposed from outside. Taxonomy is based on *Birds of Africa* but with up-dates from more recent authors such as Zimmerman et al. (1996), although a few odd things are unfortunately lumped such as African Scops Owl (*Otus senegalensis*) with Common Scops Owl (*O. scops*).

The introductory chapters by Derek Pomeroy are models of concision, the first section neatly summarising land-forms and past climates, the climate today, the still poorly understood phenomenon of seasonality, major ecological zones, bird habitats, human impacts on the natural environment and people and birds. The concept of Ecofloristic Zones (EFZ's), adopted for most of the work, uses a wide range of ecological criteria, which can help explain some seeming anomalies in distribution, such as the curiously local occurrence of Foxy Cisticola (*Cisticola troglodytes*). Most intact forest cover is within protected areas, and most areas have at least relics of the former habitat present, which helps

explain the still great diversity of species in such a comparatively small country.

The end papers have maps of basic geographic features and both the old and current administrative districts. Maps in the introductory chapters clearly show altitudinal zones, rainfall, ecorfioristic zones, vegetation type, land cover category, human population density, major protected areas and point coverage. The appendices present additions to the Ugandan list since January 2000, species whose occurrence is poorly documented, species whose occurrence is considered to be erroneous, and estimates of bird populations for a few species such as the iconic Shoebill (*Balaeaniceps rex*) which has 1–200 pairs. An extensive gazetteer and a comprehensive list of references and bibliography are provided, as well as a thorough index.

A brief history of ornithology in Uganda is given, referring to the classic work of Jackson and Sclater (1938), acknowledging the pioneering work of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society with its invaluable journal *Scopus* (inaugurated in 1977), and not forgetting the estimable Mackworth-Præd and Grant (1952, 1955) and *Birds of Africa* from 1982 onwards. The political and social stability which has followed the chaos of the 1970s has allowed the commencement of biodiversity surveys and work by professional ornithologists, culminating in the production of this landmark atlas.

The Atlas documents Uganda having 1,007 species of birds at the beginning of 2000 with a further 32 requiring confirmation. There is a valuable appendix detailing additional species whose occurrence is now considered erroneous. The only African countries with more species are Kenya, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) with Tanzania having fewer breeding species. The numbers are in a similar league to the richest ornithological countries of South America.

About 190 species are regular migrants, mostly from the Palearctic, but more than 50 are intra-African migrants and many species exhibit partial migration, a phenomenon still poorly understood. Ringing (banding) has been conducted since 1950 but with only about 150 recoveries, so much remains to be learned about both movements and longevity. More than 80% of Uganda's birds are resident,

but ~160 species lack breeding data including some surprisingly common ones including the Emerald-spotted Wood-dove (*Turtur chalcopilos*) and Greater Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*).

Over 300 of Uganda's birds are dependent on forest and 73 are Threatened according to regional and global extinction criteria with a further 118 listed as regionally Near-Threatened or of Regional Responsibility (i.e., predominantly East African in range). Forest cover has declined from an estimated 14% in 1900 to ~3.6% in 2000. Substantial areas of forest are now protected in reserves or parks but wetlands in particular face serious threats.

The atlas does not map breeding records because they are too few and mostly older data. What information is known is included within the text for each species, although only ~50 species have adequate breeding season data. The other residents are assumed to breed and the code 'RB?' (resident breeder) is used for their status; similar codes are being used by the BOU Checklist series. Each map is accompanied by a succinct and informative paragraph by Margaret Carswell, which gives estimates of status, comments on the distribution and subspecies involved, and lists what is known of the breeding cycle. There are also a few attractive black and white vignettes of birds.

An innovative feature of this work is the use of a predictive map model, developed and implemented by Jake Reynolds and Herbert Tushabe, that was derived from habitat suitability based on rainfall and vegetation type. This model delimits potentially suitable areas where the species may occur (exclusive of waterbirds which are outside the parameters of the testing). Some 498 of 822 mapped species get this treatment, basically the more widespread and often better known species. Given the lack of point data for such large areas of the country, especially in the north and east, this is a useful extrapolation and can be refined over time as better data become available. It may also have a considerable conservation value, helping identify potential key areas. Uganda contains parts of 3 Endemic Bird Areas (EBA's) and has 3 further secondary areas which harbor single restricted range species such as Lake Mburo National Park for Red-faced Barbet (*Lybius rubrifacies*) and

North Ugandan swamps for the sole Ugandan endemic, Fox's Weaver (*Ploceus spekeoides*). Uganda also has 30 Important Bird Areas (IBA's) identified with all 10 national parks qualifying for this status, plus 7 Forest Reserves and 2 Wetland Reserves. Efforts are under way to enlist the support of local people for formal protection for the 10 IBAs without protection.

The atlas highlights distribution changes via informative tables drawing attention to declines in fish-eating birds such as Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) and Fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), and to worrying declines in Palearctic migrants, particularly the less common species such as Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*). This is a disturbing trend worthy of careful future monitoring. Increases have involved largely commensal species which can exploit degraded habitats, for instance the Marabou (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) is a recent colonist of Kampala!

The atlas is an innovative milestone for East African ornithology, provides a great baseline for future work and neatly summarizes the status of each species. Given the social and political problems which Uganda has so recently faced, it is a remarkable achievement, and gives invaluable data for conservation purposes. Given the current demographic explosion, careful planning and protection of key sites is vital and this work will be an exceptional resource tool. The authors are congratulated and every library or birder with African interests should possess a copy of this book.—Highly recommended.—PHIL GREGORY, Cassowary House, P. O. Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881, Australia; e-mail: sicklebill@optusnet.com.au

CAPTIVE RAPTOR MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION. By Richard Naisbitt and Peter Holz. Hancock House, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. 2004: 168 pp., 107 color photographs, 11 black and white photographs, 80 line drawings and sketches. ISBN: 0-88839-490-X. \$39.95 (hardbound).—Located at the migratory bottleneck at Eilat, Israel, at the northern edge of the combined North African deserts of the Sahel, Sahara, and Sinai, I have to contend with several 10s of raptors every spring that have suc-

ceeded to make the crossing successfully but that are too emaciated to go any further or blunder into human structures. During spring migration we are called on a daily basis to the tall hotels and the highest buildings to collect birds found by caring citizens and which have a wide range of injuries. The lack of a proper veterinarian in a radius of several 100s of kilometers has forced the staff of the International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat to rehabilitate as many as 300 raptors a season with absolutely no help from the outside. This has forced the dedicated staff to rely heavily on their own experience, gained by trial-and-error in the field, and books published on how to do it right.

There are several good books on the market that address the subject appropriately. However, the problems with them are that they are either too costly for a hand-to-mouth NGO, or are too technical for field use. Hence, I was skeptical when asked to review a copy of this book. It has taken more than one year to review the book because I decided to first use it in the field and to see how practical and useful it really might be.

The book is large, 85-by-110 mm, and hardbound. I found this to be an advantage in the field, especially on windy days. The writing is large and the illustrations are clean and clear. There are several 'boxed' tips and information that make the work easier for the person handling the bird. An example is on page 26 where there are checklists for when you initially receive the raptor—how to check for obvious injuries, what one should look for, and the proper procedures for examining the raptor. However, the book has two distinct sections that are inter-mingled.

Chapter one introduces the reader to the basics of raptor foraging ecology. This gives those who are not familiar with raptor ecology an idea of their functional capabilities. Chapter two dives into the subject of the injured raptor—how to collect and transport, housing, rehabilitation, and aviary exercise. This chapter also address the problems of dealing with orphaned raptors, their food, behavioral development, and re-introduction. Chapter three is dedicated to releasing rehabilitated raptors and chapter four to monitoring them after release. I found the section reviewing injuries especially useful, and built an aviary to ex-